Midterm Thematic Essay Topics

You will write a full-length Thematic Essay for this midterm (42 minutes) along with Multiple Choice Questions (42 minutes).

Possible Topics Include: (Organized Chronologically)

* **For Suggestions – you can go beyond the ones listed but it must be one that we already covered this year in Global 1**

**June 2015 Theme: Belief Systems—Movements**

Belief systems are an established, orderly way that groups or individuals look at

religious faith or philosophical principles. Some belief systems have spread

outside their places of origin. The diffusion of these belief systems has affected

other societies and regions in various ways.

**Task:**

Select ***two*** belief systems that have spread outside their place of origin and for ***each***

• Discuss a central principle of this belief system

• Discuss how this belief system spread to another region

• Discuss an effect of the spread of this belief system on a society or region

*You may use any belief system from your study of global history and geography. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.*

**Jan 2015 Theme: Human and Physical Geography**

Geographic features have influenced the political, economic, social, and historical

development of countries and regions.

**Task:**

Select ***two*** geographic features and for ***each***

• Discuss how this geographic feature influenced the political, economic, social, ***and/or*** historical developments in a country or region

*You may use any geographic feature from your study of global history and geography. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the influence of rivers in China, Mesopotamia or Egypt, deserts in Egypt or Saudi Arabia, monsoons on India, mountains of China, India or Italy, archipelago of Greece, and seas (Mediterranean and/or Black) of Europe.*

**August 2014 Theme: Change—Political Leaders**

Political leaders have come to power under a variety of circumstances. Once in power, these leaders implemented policies and practices that have affected people, societies, and regions in different ways.

**Task:**

Select ***two*** political leaders and for ***each***

• Describe the historical circumstances that brought this political leader to power

• Explain ***one*** policy or practice that was put into effect under this leader

• Discuss how this policy/practice affected a specific group of people or region

*You may use any political leader from your study of global history and geography. Some suggestions you may wish to consider include Shi Huangdi (Emperor Qin) in China, Pericles in Athens, Alexander the Great in the Hellenistic Empire, Augustus in Rome, Emperor Wudi in Han China, Asoka in India, and Mansa Musa in Mali.*

**June 2011 Theme: Technology**

Throughout history, societies have developed significant technological

innovations. These technological innovations have had both positive and negative

effects on a society or on humankind.

**Task:**

Select ***two*** technological innovations and for ***each***

• Discuss why the technological innovation was important during a specific time period

• Discuss the positive ***and/or*** negative effects this technological innovation had on a society or on humankind You may use any technological innovation from your study of global history and geography.

*Some suggestions you might wish to consider include irrigation systems, hoes, boats, walls, aqueducts, writing, and pottery.*

**August 2008 Theme: Geography (How Humans Change Their Environment)**

Throughout global history, human societies in various nations and regions have

changed their physical environments to meet their needs. Societies have built

structures, removed vegetation and resources, and modified the land to meet

their needs. These changes have often had different results.

**Task:**

Select ***two*** different nations/regions and for ***each***

• Explain why the society modified their environment

• Explain how the people of that specific nation/region modified their physical environment

• Discuss the effect this modification had on that nation/region

*You may use any nation or region from your study of global history. Some suggestions you*

*might wish to consider include Mesopotamia or Egypt (modified the land), China (built structures), and Romans (built structures).*

**Jan 2011 Thematic Theme: Political Ideas (Modified from DBQ)**

Throughout history, ideas have shaped and influenced various societies and regions.

**Task:**

Choose ***two*** ideas and for ***each***

• Explain the idea

• Discuss how this idea influenced societies or regions

*You may use any political idea covered this year including democracy in Athens, Civil Service Test in China, legal codes in Babylonia (Hammurabi)/Romans, theocracy in Egypt, tetrarchy in Rome, and satrapies in Persia.*